

widely separated stations on scattered dates from the 23d to the 31st. The average number of days with appreciable precipitation for the district was but 5, ranging from 3 in South Carolina to 9 in Florida.

RIVER CONDITIONS.

The stages of the rivers remained very low throughout the month, the means being below the normal at almost all the river stations. The Yadkin and Cape Fear Rivers in North Carolina were as low as ever before recorded in May. At almost every river station in South Carolina and Georgia the stages were much below the average for May. The rivers of Alabama and Mississippi did not show quite so marked a decline.

MISCELLANEOUS PHENOMENA.

The prevailing winds for the month were from the southwest in Virginia and North Carolina, from the northeast in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, and from the east or southeast in Alabama and Mississippi. The wind movement was moderate, but exceeded an average of 10 miles an hour for the month at Cape Henry, Va., Hatteras, N. C., Charleston, S. C., Savannah, Ga., and Pensacola, Fla. The maximum wind velocities reported were Hatteras, 48 miles from the northwest on the 8th; Raleigh, 41 miles from the northeast on the 26th, and Charlotte, 40 miles from the southwest on the 1st. The percentage of sunshine was very high, the average number of clear days being 20 and of cloudy days but 4.

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS.

North Carolina.—Heavy thunderstorms were observed at many stations in central and eastern North Carolina from 5 to 7 p. m. on the 26th, high winds being reported at Durham, Louisburg, Raleigh, Chalybeate Springs, Fayetteville, Lumberton, and Whiteville. The wind reached a velocity of 41 miles an hour from the northeast at 7 p. m. in Raleigh. As a result of lightning and high winds St. Agnes Hospital, Raleigh, was seriously damaged. The Venable tobacco warehouse and Chatham hosiery mills at Durham, N. C., were destroyed; also a large tobacco warehouse and church at Apex, and a store and dwelling at Whiteville. Many trees were uprooted. Aside from the damage to timber the loss is estimated at over \$100,000.

South Carolina.—Damaging hailstorms occurred in the extreme northwest portion of South Carolina on the 13th, while sandstorms did considerable damage at places in the northeastern portion on the night of the 26th.

Mississippi.—A severe wind storm, accompanied by heavy rain, occurred at Jackson on the afternoon of the 30th, injuring telegraph wires and poles and damaging shade trees. The only other damage of importance occurred at the store of the McClelland Hardware Co., where a glass front was blown out. The total money loss is estimated at about \$500.

THE DROUGHT OF 1910-11 IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

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The drought of November, 1910, to May, 1911, inclusive, stands almost unparalleled in the meteorological

history of South Carolina. The records of cooperative observers are much too short to determine its relative importance as compared with others that may have occurred, and it is found that even the records of the regular Weather Bureau stations in and near the State are also too brief, although most of them have been in operation for over 40 years. The Charleston record of 119 years was found to give a more accurate idea of the extreme severity of this dry period.

The regular Weather Bureau stations at Wilmington and Charlotte, N. C., Charleston and Columbia, S. C., and Augusta and Savannah, Ga., are so situated that their records give a fair average precipitation for the State as a whole. An examination of these records shows that the past seven months given in the table below have been the driest of any similar period during the last 41 years, except possibly in the extreme northwest and southern portions, the combined areas of which do not aggregate 10 per cent of the total area of the State.

Stations.	1910		1911					Total.	Normal.	Per cent.
	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.			
Wilmington, N. C.	0.92	1.30	2.03	0.45	3.95	0.70	0.28	9.63	22.94	42
Charleston, S. C.	1.61	1.21	0.56	1.11	1.27	1.74	0.13	7.63	23.06	33
Savannah, Ga.	2.74	1.56	1.03	0.70	1.35	2.69	0.13	10.20	21.52	47
Charlotte, N. C.	0.36	2.53	1.93	1.93	2.77	2.66	1.23	13.41	27.33	49
Columbia, S. C.	0.59	1.30	1.52	0.94	1.15	1.84	0.70	8.04	22.76	35
Augusta, Ga.	1.35	1.64	1.51	1.24	2.13	2.31	0.79	10.97	26.46	41
Average.....	1.26	1.59	1.43	1.06	2.10	1.99	0.54	9.98	24.01	42

The only record of considerable length prior to 1871 is that at Charleston. It covers the years 1738-1765, 1785-1791, 1807-1811, and 1832 to date, a total of 119 years out of the past 173. An examination of this record shows but one period of any successive seven months with less precipitation than the period under discussion. It extended from October, 1757, to April, 1758, inclusive, the total precipitation for the seven months being only 4.95 inches as compared with 7.63 inches from November, 1910, to May, 1911. The record in 1757-58 at Charleston was as follows: October, 0.46 inch; November, 0.64; December, 0.84; January, 0.53; February, 0.53; March, 1.76, and April, 0.19. The precipitation during the three months preceding that drought amounted to 111 per cent of the normal; in the case of the present one it was 126 per cent. It is of course not probable that the present low rate of rainfall at Charleston (33 per cent) will continue during the remainder of the year. The occurrence of a similar drought so long ago as 1757-58 refutes the idea of a possible permanent change in the rainfall for this section.

Average precipitation during drought, in terms of percentage of normal.

	1910		1911				
	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.
Coast stations.....	70	44	36	22	60	57	5
Interior stations.....	28	52	43	31	45	69	26

Coast stations comprise Wilmington, Charleston, and Savannah; interior stations, Charlotte, Columbia, and Augusta.